



5 Daily Devotionals (From October 11th Sermon)

Day 1: Bring Someone to Jesus

Key Verse: Matthew 12:22

“Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw.” — Matthew 12:22 (ESV)

Reflection

Imagine being unable to see or speak, struggling with a burden you cannot overcome on your own. In Matthew 12, a group of people brings a suffering man to Jesus, trusting that He can help when nothing else can. Jesus heals him completely, demonstrating His divine authority and compassion.

Notice something important: the man did not come to Jesus alone. Others cared enough to bring him to the One who could change his life.

We all know people who are struggling. Some carry grief, guilt, fear, or broken relationships. Others have wandered away from church or no longer know what they believe about Jesus. We cannot force anyone to believe, but we can love them, pray for them, share the hope of the Gospel, and invite them to hear God's Word.

And when we are the ones struggling, we can turn to Jesus, too. He offers what the world cannot give: forgiveness through His death and resurrection, peace in the midst of hardship, and the promise of eternal life.

Who in your life needs someone to help them find their way back to Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us from sin and death. Give me a compassionate heart for those who are hurting or far from You. Help me share Your love with gentleness and courage, and remind me to run to Jesus whenever I need His strength and peace. In His name, Amen.

Day 2: Jesus Has the Authority

Key Verse: Matthew 12:28

“But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” — Matthew 12:28 (ESV)

Reflection

After Jesus heals the demon-oppressed man, the crowds begin asking whether He might be the promised Messiah. But the Pharisees refuse to believe. Rather than recognizing God's power at work, they accuse Jesus of working for Satan.

Their problem was not a lack of evidence. They had already decided what they were willing to believe, and they judged Jesus accordingly.

We face a similar temptation. Sometimes God's Word tells us something we don't want to hear. We may be tempted to ignore it, explain it away, or choose what feels right instead. But Jesus is not simply a Savior we turn to when life gets difficult. He is also our Lord, and His Word is our authority.

That doesn't mean we earn God's love by perfect obedience. We are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not by our ability to get everything right. Rather, because Jesus has rescued us, we learn to trust His wisdom even when it challenges our preferences.

The good news is that the authority of Jesus is never separated from His love. The One who calls us to repentance is the same One who died and rose again to forgive us.

Where might you be tempted to trust your own judgment more than God's Word?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are my Savior and my Lord. Forgive me for the times I place my preferences above Your truth. Give me a humble heart that listens to Your Word and trusts Your promises. Help me remember that Your authority is a gift because You love me and desire what is good for me. Amen.

Day 3: The Stronger One Has Come

Key Verse: Matthew 12:29

“Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man?” — Matthew 12:29 (ESV)

Reflection

Jesus describes Satan as a strong man whose house must be entered and plundered. The picture is powerful: someone must be stronger than the one who holds the house before captives can be rescued.

Jesus is that stronger One. His miracles demonstrate His authority over the forces of evil, and His death and resurrection accomplish the decisive victory over sin, death, and the devil. The kingdom of God has come through Him, and Satan's accusations do not have the final word over those who belong to Christ.

We still experience the effects of living in a fallen world. We face temptation, discouragement, suffering, and spiritual struggles. Sometimes those burdens can make us feel as though evil has the upper hand. But our confidence rests not in our own strength, willpower, or ability to overcome every challenge. Our confidence rests in Jesus.

When guilt reminds you of your failures, remember the cross. When fear makes the future seem uncertain, remember God's promises. When temptation comes, turn to His Word and seek the support of fellow believers.

Jesus has not promised a life without hardship. He has promised that nothing can separate His people from His love.

What struggle do you need to place in the hands of the stronger One today?

Application

Read Romans 8:31–39. Write down one promise that reminds you of Christ's victory, and return to it whenever fear or discouragement arises.

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, thank You for sending Jesus to defeat sin, death, and the devil. When I feel weak, remind me that my hope rests in Christ's victory rather than my own strength. Guard my faith, strengthen me through Your Word, and give me confidence in Your unfailing love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4: Never Give Up on Repentance

Key Verse: Matthew 12:31

“Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people...” — Matthew 12:31 (ESV)

Reflection

Jesus' words about the unforgivable sin can be frightening. Does this mean there is a particular mistake so terrible that God will never forgive us?

In context, Jesus is confronting people who see God's work through Him and deliberately attribute it to Satan. Their response reveals a hardened rejection of the Holy Spirit's testimony about Jesus. They are not simply struggling with doubt or grieving over a sin. They are resisting the very truth that calls sinners to repentance and points them to their Savior.

This passage should not drive a repentant sinner to despair. If you are troubled by your sin, confess it to God. Do not excuse it or pretend it doesn't matter. But do not imagine that your sin is greater than Christ's sacrifice, either.

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, forgiveness is freely given to all who repent and trust in Him. When God's Word exposes something wrong in our lives, that conviction is an opportunity to turn back to Him and receive His mercy.

You do not have to keep punishing yourself for a sin Christ has forgiven. Receive His promise, trust His grace, and move forward in the new life He gives.

Is there a past failure you are still carrying even though you have confessed it to God?

Closing Prayer

Merciful Father, I confess that I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Forgive me for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again for me. Keep my heart open to Your Word, lead me to genuine repentance, and help me rest in the certainty of Your forgiveness. Teach me to live in the freedom of Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5: What Comes Out of the Heart?

Key Verse: Matthew 12:35

“The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.” — Matthew 12:35 (ESV)

Reflection

Have you ever said something in anger and immediately wished you could take it back? Perhaps exhaustion, stress, or frustration caused words to come out that did not reflect the person you wanted to be.

Jesus teaches that our words reveal what is happening in our hearts. We cannot simply blame a difficult day or another person's behavior for everything we say. Our words matter because they flow from within us, revealing our need for God's forgiveness and the renewing work of the Holy Spirit.

This is not a call to pretend we can make ourselves perfect. Christians still struggle with sin. The difference is that, through faith in Christ, we are brought back to God in repentance. We learn to confess our failures, apologize to those we hurt, and extend forgiveness to others because Christ has forgiven us.

God also gives us good treasures to fill our hearts: His promises in Scripture, the assurance of our Baptism, the forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel, and the gifts of Christ's body and blood in Holy Communion. Through these gifts, He strengthens our faith and sustains us in our daily lives.

We will not always speak perfectly, but we can continually return to the One who forgives, renews, and teaches us to love.

What might your words reveal about what is filling your heart?

Application

Before your next difficult conversation, pause and pray. Ask God to help you speak truthfully, listen patiently, and respond with grace. If you have hurt someone, take responsibility and seek reconciliation.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, forgive me for the careless and hurtful words I have spoken. Renew my heart through Your Word and strengthen my faith through Your promises. Help me take responsibility for my failures, seek forgiveness when I have hurt others, and extend the same grace I have received through Jesus Christ. Let my words reflect Your love. Amen.

A Final Encouragement

Throughout Matthew 12, Jesus reveals who He is: the Son of God with authority over evil, the Lord who calls us to repentance, and the Savior who brings forgiveness and life.

Our hope is not that we will never stumble. Our hope is that Jesus is faithful even when we fail. When God's Word convicts us, we can return to Him. When guilt weighs us down, we can cling to the cross. And when life feels overwhelming, we can remember that the One who died and rose again for us holds us securely in His grace.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” — 1 John 1:9 (ESV)

Small Group Discussion

Matthew 12:22–37 | The Authority of Jesus, the Power of Forgiveness, and the Words We Speak

Opening Question

Who is someone who helped you through a difficult season of life? What did they do that made a difference?

Read Together: Matthew 12:22–37

Jesus heals a demon-oppressed man, revealing His divine authority. While some people wonder whether He is the promised Messiah, the Pharisees accuse Him of working through Satan. Jesus exposes their flawed reasoning and warns them about rejecting God's truth. He also teaches that our words reveal what is in our hearts.

Key Takeaways

- **Jesus has authority over Satan and sin.** His miracles reveal that God's kingdom has come.
- **Jesus is both Lord and Savior.** He not only forgives our sins but also has authority over our lives through His Word.
- **God calls us to repentance, not excuses.** We acknowledge our sins, receive Christ's forgiveness, and seek to live differently.
- **Our words reveal our hearts.** Through the Holy Spirit, God works in us to produce words and actions that reflect His love.

- **We are called to care for others.** Like the people who brought the man to Jesus, we can pray for others, share the Gospel, and invite them to hear God's Word.

Supporting Bible Verses

- **John 14:6** — Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
- **Romans 10:17** — Faith comes from hearing the Word of Christ.
- **1 John 1:9** — God faithfully forgives and cleanses us when we confess our sins.
- **Romans 8:1** — There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- **Ephesians 4:29** — Our words should build others up and give grace to those who hear.
- **Galatians 6:1–2** — Restore others gently and bear one another's burdens.

Discussion Questions

1. The people in Matthew 12 brought a suffering man to Jesus. Who has helped bring you closer to Jesus? Who in your life might need your encouragement or invitation to church?
2. The crowd wondered whether Jesus was the promised Messiah, but the Pharisees rejected Him. What can cause people today to resist Jesus or His Word when it challenges their beliefs or choices?
3. What does it mean for Jesus to be both your **Savior** and your **Lord**? How might you be tempted to accept His forgiveness while resisting His authority in a particular area of life?
4. When God's Word exposes sin in our lives, we can confess it or try to justify it. Why is repentance difficult sometimes? How does knowing that Christ forgives us change the way we respond?
5. Jesus teaches that our words reveal what is in our hearts. What do your words tend to reveal when you are tired, stressed, angry, or afraid? How can God's Word shape your responses?
6. The sermon reminds us that forgiveness brings freedom rather than endless guilt. Is there a past failure you struggle to release? What promises of God can help you rest in Christ's forgiveness?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to defeat sin, death, and the devil. Forgive us when we resist Your Word, excuse our sins, or use our words to hurt others. Through Your Holy Spirit, lead us to genuine repentance and strengthen our faith in Your promises. Help us rest in the forgiveness Jesus won for us on the cross and confirmed through His resurrection. Give us compassionate hearts to care for others, share Your truth in love, and bring people to hear the good news of Jesus. May our words and actions reflect the grace we have received. In Jesus' name, Amen.